

Broken Wrist Near South Isomax T-900



IPS Control: 1691613

Location:
Hydroprocessing
South Isomax

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Photos:



Stairs near TP-900 where operator fell



**Every Task, the Right
Way, Every Time**

Incident Description:

On October 27, 2009, an operator was performing housekeeping after a maintenance job at T-900 in South Isomax. The operator was placing locks back into the lock box and about to open a block valve located next to a set of 4 stairs.

The stairs have a handrail on one side and do not have a handrail on the other side due to a pinch point with the valve wheel.

The operator took a step backwards on the stairs, his ankle rolled, and he fell back onto his hands, breaking his left wrist.

Investigation Findings:

- 1) The operator was not holding the left handrail while walking backwards down stairs (an LPSA was not performed).
- 2) There is only 1 handrail on the left side of the stairs (no three-point contact available & Safety in Designs [SID] requires handrails on both sides).

Lessons Learned / Business Practices:

- 1) Performing an LPSA before all routine activities can reveal potential risks.
- 2) Three-point-contact should be available and practiced when ascending or descending stairs and ladders.

What Worked Well:

- 1) Quick response by nearby operators allowed for immediate medical attention.

Recommendations:

- 1) Reinforce that the use of LSPA can play a role in preventing similar injuries.
- 2) Design and install a handrail on the stairs and platform between T-900 & TP-900. TP-900 discharge isolation valve hand wheel may have to be redesigned, as well, to allow for the installation of another handrail.

Tenets of Operations Violated:

- 4) Always follow safe work practices and procedures.

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